

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Applicant's Attorney Thomas M. Croft (Reg. No. 44,051) on August 24, 2008.

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

#### **Listing of the Claims:**

Claims 2, 3, and 8-13 have been cancelled.

Claim 1 has been amended as follow:

1. (Currently Amended) A network device management system comprising:  
a storage facility to store at least one configuration knowledge instance and at least one configuration data instance for each of a plurality of network devices, wherein each of the plurality of network devices is configured to have multiple versioned instances of configuration knowledge and configuration data, each versioned instance of configuration data being created at a different point in time, wherein the instances of configuration knowledge describe physical and logical capabilities of the plurality of network devices and the instances of configuration data describe the physical and logical capabilities utilized by the plurality of network devices,

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wherein each versioned instance of configuration knowledge comprises at least one configuration knowledge schemata defining one or more capabilities of a network device; and  
an assembler in communication with the storage facility, the assembler being capable of accessing the configuration knowledge instances and configuration data instances and assembling a device configuration from a selected one or more configuration knowledge instances and one or more configuration data instances; and  
a data entry facility for creating, modifying, and deleting said configuration knowledge instances and said configuration data instances.

#### **ALLOW SUBJECT MATTER**

1. This office action is in response to the amendment filed on June 4, 2008 and was interviewed on August 25, 2008.
2. Applicant amended claim 1, cancelled claims 2, 3, and 8-13.
3. Claims 1, and 4-7 (currently renumbered as claims 1-5) are allowable over the prior art of record.
4. This communication warrants no examiner's reason for allowance, as applicant's reply makes evident the reason for allowance, satisfying the record as whole as required by rule 37 CFR 1.104 (e). In this case, the substance of applicant's remarks in the Amendment filed on June 4, 2008 with respect to the claim limitations and further with the examiner's amendment point out the reason claims are patentable over the prior art of record. Thus, the reason for allowance is in all probability evident from the record and no statement for examiner's reason for allowance is necessary (see MPEP 13202.14).

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5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PHUOC H. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571)272-3919. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tonia L. Dollinger can be reached on 571-272-4170. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Phuoc H Nguyen/  
Examiner, Art Unit 2143

August 25, 2008